



Joint Information Center - JIC Release No. 720
July 9, 2021, 4:15 p.m. (ChST)

**141st COVID-19-Related Fatality Reported;
Twelve COVID-19 Cases with Variants of Concern Identified on Guam**

141st COVID-19-Related Fatality Reported

The Joint Information Center (JIC) was notified that Guam's 141st COVID-19-related fatality was pronounced dead on arrival at the Guam Memorial Hospital (GMH) at approximately 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 8, 2021. The patient was a 72-year-old female, unvaccinated, with underlying health conditions. She tested positive on June 26, 2021.

"Today, our grief continues. As we work towards rebuilding Guam, we are reminded that the COVID-19 virus remains a threat to our community, most especially those who have yet to get vaccinated. To those who loved her, Jeff, Josh, and I offer our deepest condolences and sympathies," said Governor Lou Leon Guerrero. "While we are so close to achieving Operation Liberate Guam, our local initiative to vaccinate 80% of our adult population, the work cannot stop there. We will continue our aggressive campaign until everyone eligible receives the protection the vaccine provides."

GBHWC Crisis Hotline

The Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC) has a Crisis Hotline available 24/7 at (671) 647-8833/4. For those feeling anxious, stressed, overwhelmed, or need to talk to someone, GBHWC has experienced providers available and ready to assist the community with any heightened stress and anxiety experienced as a result of COVID-19.

Twelve COVID-19 Cases with Variants of Concern Identified on Guam

On July 8, DPHSS received twelve (12) new results from virus samples collected on Guam, which have undergone genome sequencing by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Virus samples were collected between May 13 – 28.

DPHSS received the sixth set of results from the CDC on July 8. Twelve (12) of nineteen (19) samples received were identified with the B.1.1.7 or the Alpha Variant of Concern (VOC). Of the twelve (12) cases identified with VOCs, none reported any known travel history. Four cases did not meet the age eligibility for COVID-19 vaccination, seven cases had never been vaccinated, while one reported receiving the first dose of a two-dose series of the COVID-19 vaccine. All twelve (12) cases recovered from infection between May 24 and June 8.

To date, 158 SARS-CoV-2 virus samples have been submitted to the CDC for genome sequencing and identified a total of sixty-three (63) COVID-19 cases infected with VOCs. DPHSS previously reported VOCs from results from the CDC and identified the following:

- thirty-eight (38) cases identified with the B.1.1.7 Alpha variant
- eight (8) cases identified with the B.1.429 Epsilon variant
- three (3) cases identified with the B.1.351 Beta variant

- one (1) case identified with the B.1.617.2 Delta variant
- one (1) case identified with the P.1 Gamma variant

Current results do not provide any evidence of the other Variants of Concern on Guam (B.1.427--a California Variant of Concern). DPHSS continues to send samples to the CDC for genome sequencing.

The community is reminded to remain vigilant:

- Wear your mask. Wash your hands. Watch your distance.
- Get vaccinated. Visit dphss.guam.gov/vaccinategu for a complete vaccination schedule.
- Stay home if you are sick, keep away from others who are sick.
- Keep a safe distance of at least 6 feet from others who are not in your household.
- Practice social distancing around elderly family members.

For the latest information on COVID-19, visit dphss.guam.gov or guamrecovery.com. For inquiries on COVID-19, contact 311 through a local number, or call the Joint Information Center at (671) 478-0208/09/10.

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